

# THE COMMUNIST PARTY

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### Political Letter to Members

## THE GRAVEST CRISIS SINCE THE WAR

Dear Comrades,

**T**HIS is the most serious call the Communist Party has sent out since the end of the war. The future of war or peace depends on our and your action in the coming days.

The blueprint for a third world war has been drawn up at Washington and Brussels. The war in the Far East is already being further pressed forward.

Decisions have been taken at Brussels which, if carried out, would lead straight in the direction of a new world war.

A mobilisation of all lovers of peace on an unparalleled scale is necessary to defeat these plans.

It is necessary to awaken every man and woman to the full gravity of the decisions taken at Brussels.

The national upsurge of anger last month against the drive to major war in the Far East and against Truman's atomic war threats needs, now to be carried to a still greater height, not only to end the war in the Far East, but also to defeat the even more menacing world war plans of Brussels.

What do the Brussels decisions mean?

1. Nazi rearmament.
2. U.S. military control of Britain and Western Europe.
3. U.S. control of industrial production in Britain and Western Europe.
4. Rearmament increase and speed-up.
5. Repudiation of the Potsdam Agreement and the Anglo-Soviet Treaty.
6. Open preparation for atomic war.
7. Extension of war in the Far East and preparation for war in Europe.

The Washington Conference of Truman and Atillee prepared war, not peace. Its sequel at Brussels was a conference to put the U.S. war plot into operation.

### **Betrayed**

It established American command of Britain and other European satellites and their peoples, whom they seek to use as cannon-fodder in an American-organised war against the Soviet Union.

In the First World War of 1914-18, 10,000,000 gave their lives in order that German militarism would never again be able to menace the world.

After that war the ruling-class politicians betrayed the people. The Western Powers rearmend Germany. London, Paris and New York financed, equipped and rearmend Hitler and Fascist Japan to fight the Soviet Union. Chamberlain backed Hitler as the bulwark against Bolshevism.

To-day a Labour Government, united with the Tories, is treading again the path of Chamberlain and rearming German reaction to fight the Soviet Union.

Every man and woman knows where this leads.

The price of Chamberlain's policy was the Second World War. Only the alliance of Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union made victory over Fascism possible.

In this common struggle the Soviet people bore the main burden, made the heaviest sacrifices, destroyed nine-tenths of the Nazi armies, and saved the world from Fascist slavery.

In the comradeship of war the British, French, American and Russian peoples swore that they would maintain their alliance as the corner-stone of world peace.

### **Never again**

The Western peoples swore that they had learned their lesson, and that they would never again allow their politicians to trick them into supporting German rearmament and anti-Soviet hostilities.

The Allies agreed at the Crimea Conference in 1945:

"It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism to ensure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world."

To-day, the American and British Governments have made a mockery of this solemn wartime pledge.

To-day Truman and the Labour Government are demanding that British and French soldiers shall fight alongside their former Nazi enemies on Hitler's eastern front against their former Soviet allies.

NEVER, must be the unanimous answer from the British and French peoples, from the ex-Service men who fought Hitler, from the widows and mothers, from the bombed cities.

The Potsdam Agreement pledged the British, American and Soviet Governments to establish a permanently demilitarised Germany, a peaceful, democratic Germany, purged of all Nazis in leading positions.

Only in Eastern Germany have these pledges been carried out.

In Western Germany an American-controlled vassal State has been set up under the same reactionary financiers and militarists who backed Hitler. Now it is proposed to build a new German army under the former Nazi military commanders.

### **Swindle**

The pretence of hiding this behind the forms of an "integrated European army" is an even bigger swindle than the notorious deception which was practised in permitting German rearmament between

the wars. The Luftwaffe, which bombed London and Coventry, is to be built anew.

The Anglo-Soviet Treaty of Alliance pledged the two Governments never to enter into any coalition or alliance directed against the other.

The Soviet Union has remained faithful to this pledge.

But the Atlantic Pact is a military alliance openly directed against the Soviet Union.

We demand the fulfilment of the Potsdam Agreement for a united, democratic, disarmed Germany.

We demand the fulfilment of the Anglo-Soviet Alliance as the pivot of peace in Europe and the world.

To deceive them into acceptance of the Brussels War Plot, the people are told that all these military preparations, this intensified rearmament, these strategic moves, this massing of atomic bombers and armies under American command in Europe, is only for "defence."

They are told that it is only for defence against "the menace of Russian aggression" or "the Bolshevik danger."

This is a deliberate lie. It is the same lie which Hitler told the German people in order to draw them into his plans of aggression.

In the same breath, the warmongers complain, in the words of the Tory M.P., Mr. Robert Boothby, that "not a single battalion of the Russian Army has been committed to action anywhere."

The Soviet Union, alone of the Great Powers, is not involved in war and strives ceaselessly for peace and disarmament.

It is the United States, its principal satellites, Britain and France, and their hangers-on, which are engaged in aggression all over the world. Their invading armies, bomber squadrons and warships have brought death and destruction to the peoples of Korea, Viet Nam and Malaya, seized Formosa, bombarded Shanghai and blockaded China.

All over Europe and the Middle East their offensive bomber forces and military bases are established.

Now Truman has proclaimed a national emergency of war mobilisation to build up the largest armed forces in the world, with a gigantic standing army of 3,500,000 men, and to increase fivefold the output of planes, tanks and guns.

### **War plan**

No one threatens the United States. It is the peoples of the world that are threatened by the United States.

It is aggressive world war that is being prepared.

The Brussels War Plan means the end of Britain's national independence.

[P.T.O.]

Britain's armed forces are placed under the control of a foreign Power. Control of the armed forces of a country means the end of its sovereignty.

Britain's industrial production (for war production means, in practice, all industrial production) is similarly placed under an American controller.

Once Britain's armed forces pass under Eisenhower's supreme control and the destiny of Britain's industry is placed in the hands of an American economic dictator, it means an end of our independence as a nation.

Whoever supports these decisions is a traitor to Britain. It is the duty of every patriotic British citizen, whatever his political views, to repudiate these proposals for national suicide.

The intensive rearmament to be imposed on Britain is to exceed "substantially" even the £3,600,000,000 arms programme which the Government previously declared to exceed already the limit of Britain's capacity.

Fulfilment of this programme will mean economic ruin for Britain and unheard-of hardships for its working people.

The Brussels War Plan marks out Britain as an American advance base for destruction in an atomic world war.

## Suicide

Despite the universal outcry against the use of the atom bomb, President Truman has publicly declared that he will use it when he thinks fit ("Britain will be informed"), and Mr. Attlee has declared himself completely satisfied with this arrangement.

This surrender of Attlee to Truman can be equivalent to suicide for Britain and is stark treachery to the present and future interests of the British people.

The greatest need to-day is to dispel the fatalism and defeatism which accepts the fulfilment of these war plans as inevitable.

Wide sections of the people declare: "It's coming, what can we do about it?"

It is the aim of the warmakers to create this mood of passive, helpless acquiescence among the people.

Wide masses of the people have not yet realised the gravity and urgency of the menace represented by the Brussels decisions. While they are congratulating themselves on the rebuff administered by popular resistance to the plans for major war with China, they have not recognised the enlarged plans now being hurried forward all the more urgently for war in Europe.

*To end this passivity and acquiescence the main initiative must come from the Communist Party and from all people who desire to prevent a third world war.*

They must spread the understanding of the truth proclaimed by the Warsaw Peace Congress—that the final decision rests with the people.

It is the weakness of the warmakers, and the fiasco of their offensive in the Far East, that have led to this desperate intensification and speeding-up of their war preparations.

## Opposition

They realise that time is against them. They realise that with every day of peace the forces of the people grow stronger all over the world.

The drawing up in Brussels of the megalomaniac war plans for colossal rearmament on a scale greater than Hitler's and for an aggressive world war is not the same thing as fulfilling them.

The imperialist camp is torn by contradictions.

Anglo-American contradictions have been forced into the open in the Far East. These contradictions will grow greater as American pressure on Britain increases.

German rearmament arouses the intense opposition of all the peoples of Europe who suffered at the hands of Hitler.

French opinion is openly hostile. The French Government has had to be dragged into acceptance of the scheme under cover of phony "safeguards" and promises.

But the German politicians, Adenauer, Schumacher and others, conscious of the weakness of their own position as the vassals of American militarism, openly demand that these "safeguards" shall be flung to the winds and that German military power shall be restored to dominate Europe.

The overwhelming majority of the people of West Germany are opposed to rearmament and the American plans to drag them into a new war against the Soviet Union. The German people want unity and peace.

Faced with the peoples' demand for peace, the governments of the war camp use more and more reactionary measures against their own peoples in order to carry through their plans for war.

## Warning

All these contradictions increase the opportunity for the Peace Movement of the peoples to win the day.

Year 1950 is not 1938. The peace camp, led by the Soviet Union and People's China, represents the majority of the population of the world.

The Soviet Union has given formal warning that it will not tolerate the rearmament of Germany. In this the Soviet Union speaks for all the peoples of Europe.

The Chinese delegation to the United Nations has proclaimed the unalterable stand of People's China for peace in the Far East on the basis of the ending of all foreign invasions and aggression. In this People's China speaks for all the nations of Asia.

The Warsaw Peace Congress decisions are mobilising the people of the entire world in the fight for peace.

Let us spread the slogan of Warsaw: "Peace will conquer war."

The decision is in the hands of the British people.

If the working people can defeat the war plans in Britain, this means their defeat throughout the world.

If we can detach Britain from the mad and suicidal strategy of the American war lords, this will mean the unity of all

Europe against American war plans, the collapse of the American war plans and the victory of peace.

In place of this crazy, criminal outlook of war and destruction, the way can open up for the peoples of the world to live in peace.

The Communist Party calls upon the people to fight for the decisions of the Warsaw Peace Congress.

Instead of the Brussels decisions, we stand for negotiations for a united, democratic, demilitarised Germany.

## Demands

Once this is achieved the Powers could enter into further negotiations for the banning of the atom bomb and agreed measures of disarmament, which would lift the impossible burdens off their shoulders and make the money available for social advance.

We stand for an end to the war in Korea, the withdrawal of all foreign troops, the restoration of Formosa to People's China and the admission of China to the United Nations—an act which can transform that body into a really effective instrument for the preservation of world peace.

This is the atmosphere in which war propaganda can be stopped and peaceful, fruitful trade and cultural relations developed among all nations.

There is no time to be lost. The greatest effort in the history of the Communist Party must now be made to arouse the entire Labour movement and all lovers of peace in this crisis of our fate.

Let the demands resound from every side!

**THE REPUDIATION OF THE BRUSSELS DECISIONS.**

**NO REARMING OF GERMANY.**

**SUPPORT FOR A UNITED AND DEMILITARISED GERMANY AND A PEACE TREATY, FOLLOWED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF OCCUPATION FORCES.**

**LET THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AT ONCE ENTER INTO NEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO FULFIL THESE PEACEFUL AIMS.**

**BREAK WITH THE ATLANTIC PACT AND THE AMERICAN WAR POLICY.**

We call on every branch and factory group of the Communist Party to hold immediate meetings to discuss this solemn appeal to save peace.

## Action call

We call on every district committee, borough committee and branch committee to plan the campaign in their area.

From demonstrations and meetings, from factories and unions, from every organisation of the Labour movement, let telegrams and resolutions pour into the Government and Members of Parliament to present our demands.

**PEACE DEPENDS ON THE PEOPLE.**

**WE MUST, CAN AND WILL WIN THE BATTLE FOR PEACE.**

**Political Committee,  
Communist Party.**

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